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LETTER DATED 7 SEPTEMBER 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to lodge the strongest protest with regard to regulation No. 1999/4 of Special Representative of the Secretary-General Bernard Kouchner, permitting the use of foreign currencies as legal tender in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia.

The regulation constitutes a most flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and an attack on the sovereignty, monetary and financial unity and the economic, legal and, by extension, territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Alongside the abolition of the Yugoslav monetary and financial laws and control, the permission is a crass excess of the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and amounts to the continuation of aggression by other means, aimed at separating Kosovo and Metohija from the constitutional and legal whole of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The provision to the effect that the revenues and budgets of all physical and legal persons will be made in foreign currencies is along the same lines, as well as the paradoxical provision that a compulsory payment may be paid in dinars with a charge of "an additional administrative fee to cover handling and transaction costs".

These illegal and arbitrary acts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General are outside the bounds of relevant behaviour and seriously threaten the process of finding a solution to Kosovo and Metohija on the basis of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). Therefore, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia calls on the Security Council to condemn the regulation most energetically and to cancel it immediately.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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